



# THE ENDEAVOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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SERVING EL CERRITO, KENSINGTON, AND RICHMOND ANNEX

SUMMER 2008

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## MISSION STATEMENT OF THE STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT

It shall be the mission of the Stege Sanitary District to plan and operate a safe, efficient, and economical wastewater collection and transfer system for the present and future customers of the District.

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## El Cerrito and Stege Swap Land for New District Headquarters

The present District headquarters building and maintenance yard was built in 1959. Since that time, significant land settling has led to serious foundation problems. In addition, the critical need for building upgrades have led to a situation where it would cost almost as much to repair the building as to build a new one.

At the same time, the City of El Cerrito expressed an interest in completing a

land swap in which the city would acquire the parcel of land that now houses the District’s headquarters and Stege would get a similarly-sized parcel just down the street. This would allow El Cerrito to expand its recycling center and would provide more convenient access to Stege.

The design of the new building is underway and bidding on the construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

When completed, the new headquarters will be LEED-certified. The LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—certification is only granted to buildings that meet strict energy and environmental standards. The Stege project will include:

1. Construction activity pollution prevention;
2. Light pollution reduction;
3. Water efficiency and water use reduction;
4. Optimization of energy performance;
5. Use of materials with recycle content;
6. Energy-efficient lighting and heating and cooling systems;
7. Use of low-emitting materials (air quality, paints, carpets) and;
8. Water-efficient landscaping.



**The cost of building will be covered entirely by reserve funds. There will be no rate increase to cover building costs.**

# Street Paving in El Cerrito

On February 5, 2008, the citizens of El Cerrito passed Measure A, which called for an additional ½ cent sales tax to be used for repaving city streets. As part of the measure, El Cerrito will impose a moratorium on work in its streets for a period of three to five years after paving is complete, except in an emergency.

All homeowners in the Stege Sanitary District, including those in El Cerrito, have been required since September 6, 2005 to obtain a Certificate of Compliance verifying the good condition of a home's sewer lateral before their home is sold. Repairing or replacing a home's lateral often requires digging in the street. Homeowners are therefore encouraged to get their certificate before

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the City's paving program begins. The certificate is good for ten years.

To help homeowners stay in compliance with both the lateral certificate requirement and the street digging moratorium, the District is considering:

1. Notifying property owners individually before scheduled paving begins on their street;
2. Waiving permit fees when laterals are repaired or replaced in advance of scheduled El Cerrito paving work;
3. Working with local plumbing contractors to develop a "not to exceed price" for lateral repair and replacement so as to obtain a lower price for the work than would be available to an individual homeowner;
4. Requiring only replacement of that portion of the lateral that is on private property during the moratorium on street digging. The homeowner will still be responsible for complete repair after the moratorium ends. (Unfortunately, this results in a greater overall replacement cost since it involves work at two separate times. Replacing the entire lateral prior to paving is most cost-effective.)

The District is working with the City of El Cerrito to help homeowners repair and replace their laterals before paving begins. The District has asked the City to consider:

1. Reducing permit fees when laterals are repaired or replaced in advance of scheduled El Cerrito paving work;
2. Allowing a temporary street patch instead of full paving if the lateral repair or replacement is completed within three months of the start of paving.

For information on the El Cerrito street paving project, visit [www.el-cerrito.org/paving/](http://www.el-cerrito.org/paving/), email [paving@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:paving@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us), or call (510) 219-4155. For information the Stege Sanitary District's Certificate of Compliance requirements, visit [www.stegesd.dst.ca.us/](http://www.stegesd.dst.ca.us/) or call (510) 524-4667.

## Report on Other Post Employment Benefits

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) sets standards for state and local government accounting and financial reporting. This includes reports on an agency's ability to meet its retiree health benefits obligations.

Stege has long recognized its responsibility to provide fiscally-responsible post-employment benefits. Unlike agencies that now find themselves with contractual obligations they are unable to meet, Stege is pleased to report it is able to cover all its retirement benefits without the need to raise rates.

Stege complied with the GASB Statement No. 45 requirement to conduct an actuarial study reporting on retiree health benefits November 2007, fully two years before the deadline. A new report is required every three years.

## Easy Steps to Comply with Lateral Ordinance

1. **Videotape your lateral.** This step generally costs less than \$150.
2. **Bring the videotape to our office for review.** There is no cost for this service and results are generally available within 48 hours.
3. **Make repairs, if needed, and obtain your Certificate of Compliance.**

## SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

### Yoalmo “Enrique” Reyes Collections Worker

Yoalmo “Enrique” Reyes became the District’s newest employee last November. Since then, Enrique has proven to be an invaluable member of Stege’s collection crew, earning a reputation as a hard worker who is always eager to learn new things. His assignments include driving and helping to operate the truck that cleans and services Stege’s almost 150 miles of sewer lines.

Before coming to Stege, Enrique worked as a cement finisher in Berkeley. When an opening became available on the District’s collection crew, he eagerly applied. He had been searching for this the kind of job for a long time—a secure opportunity to make a contribution while acquiring new skills.

The chance to attend workshops that teach safe and efficient operating procedures is one of the things Enrique likes best about Stege. The people, his coworkers and others he interacts with on the job, are another reason Enrique likes his work. Enrique hopes to stay with Stege, learning more every day.

Enrique moved to the Bay Area from Texas to be with his family. He is originally from El Salvador. And what does he do on his time off? Why work, of course, in this case helping his brother.



## Water Rationing

Two dry winters have resulted in the biggest water supply threat to EBMUD in nearly 20 years. To safeguard its shrinking supply, EBMUD has declared a severe water shortage emergency. Mandatory water rationing is now in effect. Water reduction goals of 19% for single family residences and 11% for multi-family residences have been established. EBMUD offers a variety of conservation services and programs to help residential customers meet these goals. These include rebates for high-efficiency appliances, toilets, and landscaping, educational information, and a waterwise self-survey kits. For more information, go to [www.ebmud.com/conserving\\_&\\_recycling/residential/](http://www.ebmud.com/conserving_&_recycling/residential/) or call toll-free (866) 403-2683.

### Walter Lunn Wins CWEA Award

In April, Walter Lunn, Stege’s Maintenance Supervisor, was awarded the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) prestigious Richard D. Pomeroy Award. The CWEA, a not-for-profit association of 8,000-plus professionals in the wastewater industry, trains and certifies wastewater professionals. They offer services at the state level and locally through 17 geographical local sections.

The Richard D. Pomeroy Award recognizes one individual in the state of California for his/her exceptional service and contributions to the wastewater collection industry.

Walt has been with Stege for over 18 years and has more than 30 years experience in the wastewater collection industry. As supervisor of maintenance, Walt is responsible for responding to emergencies and is in charge of Stege’s ongoing program of regular line cleaning and upkeep. This includes clearing lines of roots and debris and blasting sewer walls with water to wash away grease and grime.

Walt is one of the founders of the CWEA Bay Section’s Collection System Committee. The Bay Section is the largest section in California and Walt has been instrumental in organizing training sessions on safety, work practices, equipment operations and flagger training. He has also helped organize state-wide certification training and exam preparation.

The Board recognized Walt for his accomplishments at its meeting on May 22, 2008.





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## El Cerrito 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fair



Join the Stege Sanitary District in celebrating Independence Day at the annual City of El Cerrito Fourth of July Fair. Festivities begin at 10:00 am and continue through 4:00 pm on the Portola playground in Cerrito Vista Park at Moeser Lane and Pomona Avenue. Musicians on the main stage in Cerrito Vista Park will entertain until 7:00 pm.

Members of the District's Board of Directors will be on hand at the Stege booth to answer questions and get your feedback on how the District is doing. You can also view maps, learn about backflow prevention devices, and pick up useful pamphlets, past newsletters and even some give-away items.

The Fourth of July celebration has been a tradition in El Cerrito for over twenty years and about 5,000 people are expected again this year. Join your neighbors this year in a very special celebration!



## Stege History

On May 15, 2013, Stege Sanitary District will celebrate 100 years of service to the communities of El Cerrito, Kensington, and Richmond Annex. To get ready for this historical event, Stege is compiling a history of the District. Do you have any anecdotes or memories of the District you would like to share? Do you have photographs or news clippings that help tell the story of Stege? If so, the District would love to hear from you. Either write to 7500 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, CA 94530-0537 or email [Staff@StegeSD.dst.ca.us](mailto:Staff@StegeSD.dst.ca.us).



*Stege junction in 1913*

### How to Contact Stege

**Phone:**

(510) 524-4668  
 (510) 524-4667 (after hours)

**Mail:**

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 7500 Schmidt Lane  
 El Cerrito, CA 94530-0537

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